GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:74
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2002
ASSAULT ON GOVT. OFFICIALS BY POACHERS
SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned `Raids on `poachers`; Minister roughed up` appearing in the Indian Express dated August 26, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Union Government have advised the Government of Uttaranchal to take serious note of the said assault; and

(d) if so, the details of the action taken so far in the matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The facts of the matter are as below - Conservator of Forests, South Kumaon Circle, Nainital received information regarding possession of wildlife products by some poachers who were preparing for sale of these products. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttaranchal was informed and a trap was laid to apprehend the offenders on 22nd August 2002. Two offenders were arrested on Rorkee bypass road possessing wildlife items. The arrested persons provided information regarding sale of wildlife items at some shop at Har-ki-Paire, Haridwar. Some establishments were raided in Har-ki-Paire, the forest staff recovered and seized wildlife products and arrested accused persons. Some anti social elements gathered at the spot and started protesting against the arrest of the offenders. The mob became hostile and attacked the forest staff resulting in injuries. On receiving the information of the incident, Shri Nav Prabath Honorable Forest Minister of Uttaranchal, who was camping at Haridwar at that time reached the spot. The mob misbehaved with the electronic media personnel accompanying the minister.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. Forest offence report has been lodged with the Haridwar Range of Rajaji National Park against the two poachers and the recovered wildlife product was seized. An FIR has been registered with the Haridwar Police Station against Shri Sonu S/o Shri Ramdayal and Shri Babli along with several other unknown persons for criminal assault and obstruction of public servants on duty.